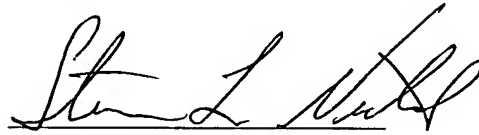


REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is entered as a matter of right prior to examination of the above-identified patent application. Examination of the application is now respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions which could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven L. Nichols", written over a horizontal line.

Steven L. Nichols
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DATE: March 24, 2004

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